

The Sun

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TELEPHONE, BUREAU 3200.

President Wilson's Message and the Sherman Act.

The President's address to Congress yesterday is likewise his first official communication to the country since the country elected him. It is a very businesslike document. Its assured manner and its clear expression of well considered thoughts commend it to the interested attention of every citizen. This address, or annual message on the state of the Union as it is styled, concerns only four topics, and only two of these four are really of commanding importance; but we beg leave to observe that seldom has a President said so much in so few words, or in words so well chosen.

The main purpose of the address is to emphasize and repeat the programme of legislation for the adjustment of the existing difficulties between the interstate railroads and their employees engaged in train service. The Adamson act, the so-called eight hour day law, is already in shape both for practical experiment and constitutional test. One of the remaining measures urgently recommended by the President for completion at this session is the strengthening of the Interstate Commerce Commission for more effective action, perhaps for an enlarged jurisdiction. Another is the addition to the present mediation and conciliation provisions of Federal law of a further provision requiring that such widespread controversies as that which recently threatened the disruption of our whole system of interstate commerce shall be subjected to a full public investigation on the merits of the case before a strike or a lockout may "lawfully be attempted." That is to say, the duress and enforced surrender of Congress under the threats of the brotherhoods a few weeks ago cannot occur again, if the President has his way, until there has been such an ascertainment of the facts and merits of the dispute as to enable public opinion to array its irresistible moral forces on the one side or the other of the controversy.

These three measures, in the interest as well of labor as of the great public's security against almost universal suffering, the President urges Congress to enact at once. A further and even more important part of his original scheme was that which called upon Congress to enact or express its explicit approval of an increase of freight rates to meet, if necessary, the additional cost of operation under the eight hour day. This compensatory measure is, of course, the essence of the whole matter so far as it involves the ability of the railway companies to perform their functions as carriers and the property rights of the millions of citizens who are holders of railroad stocks and bonds. The President makes it clear that his withdrawal of this suggestion is not due to any change of attitude with regard to the railroads' right to consideration in the way of compensatory rate increases, but solely because he is now convinced that the commission already has full power to grant such rate increases on the ground stated. Legitimate business engaged in and dependent upon the transportation industries will derive new satisfaction and new encouragement from the President's reiterated recognition of the principle of justice also to the carriers.

We now invite attention to ideas suggested by a comparison of two apparently unrelated parts of this notable State paper.

In pleading for the unshackling of our foreign commerce in the present time of unprecedented opportunity, President Wilson gives his unqualified support to the movement to modify existing anti-monopoly laws so as to permit greater freedom of trade combinations and consolidations in foreign commerce. A bill of this nature has already passed the House and is pending in the Senate. The President sets forth the desirability of giving "a free hand in the matter of combined and concerted effort" in this branch of American enterprise. We should clear away, he continues, "all legal obstacles and create a basis of undoubted law for it [our foreign commerce] which will give freedom without permitting unregulated license."

He insists on the necessity of this sort of amendment of the Sherman act and its supplements, so far as in foreign commerce they make illegal the freedom of combination now

needed by Americans who would take full advantage of an opportunity which is here, as he remarks, and may escape us if we hesitate or delay.

This recommendation of Mr. Wilson's will meet with universal approval in its immediate application. There is, however, in it a wider significance than attaches to its immediate application. It is evident that to the President's mind there is nothing sacrosanct in the code of anti-monopoly law now standing in the statutes. There is nothing unalterable, nothing fundamentally true, in the artificial criminalities and the factitious immunities established by anti-combination legislation and imposed on business enterprises by the Sherman law and its successive amendments. No ethical distinction is possible between artificially illegal combinations in foreign commerce and similar combinations in domestic commerce, over which the Federal power of regulation is precisely the same. President Wilson, in the presence of obvious opportunity, stands ready to sweep away illegality and to abolish definitions in the case of foreign commerce. Would he not naturally be eager in equal degree to wipe out arbitrary definitions and sweep away constructive restrictions whenever it became apparent that a freer hand in the matter of combinations in domestic commerce was necessary for the welfare of business? The contrary supposition seems to us unthinkable.

This reasonable attitude, this willingness to revise notions of legality and morality which have been enacted by the legislators and construed by the courts, may also be discerned in another passage of the President's address where he is discussing an entirely different subject. Speaking of the possible ways to avert a nationwide strike of railroad men, he properly hesitates to recommend "a law which forbade or prevented the individual workman to leave his work before receiving the approval of society." Yet he does assert, on what he regards as an entirely different principle, that "the concerted action of organized bodies of men" shall not stop or interrupt the operation of the railways until a thorough public investigation "shall make the whole question at issue plain for the judgment of the people."

In other words, while recognizing the individual right of the railway workmen to quit at any time, the President would suspend, for a definite intermediate period, their right to quit work individually as the result of concerted or combined or conspiring effort on the part of the labor organizations to which they as individuals happen to belong. In still other words, he would annul to a certain extent the previous legislation under which labor organizations claim exemption and immunity from the operation of any law penalizing combinations and conspiracies in restraint of trade. We see no other possible interpretation of his remarks in yesterday's address.

All this, of course, signifies a willingness to engage in a quite extensive overhauling of the Sherman act and its supplements, and a revision of some of the definitions of legality and illegality, right and wrong, not recently questioned by the Administration and its party in Congress. We must regard this as evidence of the broadmindedness with which President Wilson is about to enter upon his second term of office. We believe that the spirit here manifested (if we do not mistake its import) will be welcome to the country, and especially to the sadly harassed business of the country in domestic commerce and foreign.

Applying the Stethoscope.

Yesterday was the appointed time to visit the doctor and we hope that after listening to your heartbeats, feeling your pulse and testing your reflexes he did not shake his head. If he pronounced you sound of wind and limb, willing and kind, you had reason for self-satisfaction. But if he found something wrong there is no need for black despair.

It sometimes seems as if the major part of the world's work had been done by invalids. One of the greatest composers of music was deaf, so is one of the greatest inventors. STEVENSON, medically considered, had no business to live. FLAUBERT was an epileptic, KEATS was consumptive. MILTON was blind. The frailty of Colonel ROOSEVELT in youth gravely concerned his parents. NAPOLEON had disastrous colds. A great actress triumphs over physical infirmity. And if you are a genius of the first magnitude posterity will prove conclusively that you were insane.

No more:

"His taste exact
 For faultless fact
 Amounts to a disease."

When it was stated that the man was healthily it remained to add the paradoxical information that he was also "wealthy and wise."

New Arabia Starts Well.

The Grand Sherif of Mecca has given proof of the value of his rule and the worth of an independent Arabia for which he fought. This descendant of the Prophet is not only a warrior and state builder but also a real student of hygiene. As a result the holy Moslem city never grew so well for the pilgrims as it did this year, shielding them from extortions and bandit attacks and protecting them from plague and epidemic.

In Turkish days attacks by marauding bands and extortions of the people of Mecca frequently entailed great suffering and privation to the pilgrims, while the unsanitary conditions

in Mecca and Medina made them breeding places of diseases. Some of the great plagues in Europe and northern Africa are said to have been carried from the East by these religious caravans. The cholera epidemic of 1902 in Cairo was traced directly to the contents of a water bottle brought by a pilgrim from Mecca. So serious was the menace to health from these yearly pilgrimages that the West established a quarantine station at Tor, on the Suez, through which the west-bound faithful must pass.

On account of the war and the unsettled conditions in Arabia the pilgrimages was more than ever feared this year. But the Grand Sherif cleared of robbers the road from the coast to the sacred shrines, put down extortion, and cleaned Mecca. It is said, as it was never cleaned before. Reports from Africa, India and the Malaysian lands, from which most of the 30,000 pilgrims came, all express satisfaction with the Grand Sherif's care and praise him for protecting the pilgrimages from the privations and plagues that had so often followed in its wake. He has made a good start. A Turkish Mecca may be a blessing to the world.

Chinese for Yankee Drummers.

The American Consul at Hankow, EDWIN S. CUNNINGHAM, comes to the conclusion that the Yankee who wishes to do well in the China trade should learn Chinese. For a long time, he admits, China has been the exception to the rule that in exploiting a market the salesman abroad should have a knowledge of the language spoken by the people whose trade he seeks. But now the British Chamber of Commerce has taken the lead and a membership of the British consular service has a class of forty under the direction of a white newspaper man who is a Chinese linguist. The fee is \$7.70 a month, and a tutor on the side costs \$7.50 more. The course will last three years, and while the students pay their own tuition most of their employers will make it up to them in bonuses.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM urges American firms to encourage their staffs in China to follow the example of the Englishmen. Perhaps the American firms will try to educate their men before sending them out. The Yankee has been studying Spanish and Portuguese for his commercial conquest of South America. We see pictures of handsome youths sitting beside phonographs and learning the meaning and pronunciation of "mañana." Why not a few records of Chinese, with the windows open? After that, of course, there is to be mastered the Chinese typewriter, a recently patented machine of only 2,000 characters. A long winter is ahead and it should not be wasted by the ambitious.

Early Treatment of Cancer.

The rapidly growing movement in favor of an annual medical examination for every person, sick or well, says the American Society for the Control of Cancer, promises much benefit in the reduction of the death rate from this disease. In fact there is a better prospect for the cancer patient than for the tuberculosis patient in the earliest possible discovery of the presence of disease. Neither one presents striking symptoms in its earliest incipency. While tuberculosis may be suspected in an individual presenting pallor, loss of weight, or very often later noticed manifestations, cancer rarely betrays itself in its earliest stage. It is therefore a wise proceeding to pay careful attention to any abnormal swelling of the skin and to submit it, if at all persistent, to a medical examination.

It is common observation that most persons suffering from cancer were previously in good and often in robust health. This is probably the reason why, as statistics show, the average cancer patient defers active interference a year. That mortality from this disease could be enormously reduced if this period of delay were decidedly diminished experienced surgeons have long assured the public. They have also taught us that the only hope of cure lies in the early eradication of the disease by employment of surgical means.

It is to be hoped that the oft repeated warnings of well informed physicians may be heeded, with the same persistency as have been the warnings against the causes of tuberculosis. These warnings have already reduced the mortality from this disease twenty-five per cent.

BRITAIN'S scheme to base a declaration of war by the United States upon the outcome of a referendum vote would be less absurd if we could be sure that a foreign foe would kindly await the counting of our returns before taking aggressive action.

GEORGE C. BOLD was the greatest hotel man of his time because he understood the innocent weaknesses of mankind, because no fault was too small for his attention and because he worked hard. It has been said of him that he would have made a great Mayor or Governor. It is better to record his actual accomplishment, the rescue of an important but neglected business from the slough of inefficiency.

HASN'T the high cost of living in this country some connection with our high cost of government?

The chief trouble with the National Guard under the Hay bill is that it isn't national and isn't a guard.

England should forget about muddling through and get through muddling.

The egg boycott had a boom when the Mayors of Salamanca, Utiel, Calatayud, and Sagunto, in Spain, and Mayors of Valencia, refused to eat one at a luncheon in the Port Orange Club at Albany; but after all, was

there "strictly heroic" eggs can hardly be obtained for love or money?

It looks as if VILLA was determined to find out from our punitive expedition who is to do the punishing.

Dr. HENRY VAN DYKE, who has resigned as Minister to the Netherlands, says that his main reason for retiring was "my wish to return to work as a writer with full freedom to say what I think and feel." Apparently the Doctor is aching to tell his countrymen what the Dutch think of the war.

The Kaiser finds it difficult to over-estimate King CONSTANTINE's relative value.

It is proposed to lower parcel post rates for farmers more cheaply to mail food to consumers. You will work well where there are many farmers and not too many consumers; elsewhere it might aid farmers in a thrifty scheme of sending to town for cold storage eggs to be sent in turn to consumers as "fresh gathered on the farm."

Representative BACHARACH of Atlantic City introduced the bill in Congress providing for the coinage of the 2½ cent piece. It is timely to consider what might be the immediate, the swift result of effort to circulate such a piece of money. Some years ago there was a twenty cent piece coined in our mints and its circulation attempted. Battle, murder and sudden death resulted in lamentable prevalence; drunkenness increased shockingly because it was so easy to get a glass of beer and two ten cent pieces for the bar in exchange for the coin. There was a twenty cent piece coined in our mints and its circulation attempted. Battle, murder and sudden death resulted in lamentable prevalence; drunkenness increased shockingly because it was so easy to get a glass of beer and two ten cent pieces for the bar in exchange for the coin. There was a twenty cent piece coined in our mints and its circulation attempted. Battle, murder and sudden death resulted in lamentable prevalence; drunkenness increased shockingly because it was so easy to get a glass of beer and two ten cent pieces for the bar in exchange for the coin.

One hundred millionaires have been made in Japan by the war, we are told. But what's the use? Champagne is a fashionable drink there, and five cents' worth of the beverage that is sold for the stoutest; ticket speculation is unknown, and a New York waiter's tip would buy a slap up dinner for quite a party in Tokio. Why bother with a million in Japan?

That up-State man on his way to this city with \$842 sewed in his hat was making things convenient for the check your hat lords of these parts.

Senator JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS says that he has satisfied himself of the constitutionality of a resolution he will introduce to authorize the President to seize cargoes of foodstuffs intended for export and resell them to the people of the United States. But it is the owners of the cargoes who would have to do the distributing. It is a case of constitutionalism and they would prefer to have a ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Colonel H. H. RANDOLPH, detailed by General FURNESS to the command of the Twelfth New York Infantry, is unlike General FURNESS who has been transferred to General JAMES PARKER's cavalry brigade on the border, a West Pointer. The Twelfth will find Colonel RANDOLPH a hustler and a disciplinarian devoid of sympathy with group resignations.

Arizona parts with its local color as a frontier State when the voters roll up a majority of 12,000 for prohibition.

What part of the forty cents provided for the day's food of the Chicago diet squad pays for its dinner of soup, roast loin of pork (sky rocket prices for pork!), cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes Georgian style, escalloped onion, bread and butter, and old fashioned rice pudding?

General TRENTON reports that "only a few Chinese were killed during the time VILLA occupied Chihuahua." Only a few Chinese? They don't count, or are not counted, in practical Mexico. The massacre at Torreón two years ago is one of the great insurgent jokes.

The time has come to find out if we are satisfied with the National Guard after the experiment on the border—Senator BOWMAN.

Would it not be more to the point to find out whether the National Guard is satisfied with the federalization which a lobby procured for it?

As WAX he received the impress of many personalities.

It is said of Senator WILLIAM JOEL STORRE's speech to the League to Enforce Peace on December 14 at St. Louis that it will contain a declaration that the United States stands ready to move for peace in Europe and "respects the warring nations to heed the invitation." But suppose one side or the other is heedless, what remedy would "Gumshoe" BILL propose?

Every day is to be tag day for the cold storage egg.

IMAGINATION IN POLITICS.

Remarks on the "Alliance of the West and South Against the East."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: As an old friend of THE SUN and an occasional contributor to its columns, permit me to thank you for your editorial article in Sunday's issue entitled "Imaginary Political Alliances." I hope that it will come under the notice of a good many self-conscious political diagnosticians, who have lately felt impelled to favor the public with their views upon that topic, and lead them to do a little sane and straight thinking.

The relations between the South and New York have remained close and cordial for many decades, notwithstanding the fact that the South lost its political supremacy more than fifty years ago. Many portions of the West, especially the Far West, have not passed the formative period in political as well as other conditions; and I fancy that whatever political power the West as such may come to wield, it is unlikely to resemble that which the South held for more than a generation. A political alliance in present circumstances between the two sections for the purpose of electing a President is unthinkable.

I suppose that politeness to California forbade your asking if San Francisco and Los Angeles were places where the simple life alone is loved and exclusively practiced. You have put your finger upon the true spot when you account for the prejudice against Wall Street by using the word "envy."

In respect of depth of insight, breadth of view and easy grasp of the whole subject, accompanied by light and graceful treatment, your article is a masterpiece. The choice of your subject, the end is exquisite and worthy of Voltaire at his best. WILLIAM C. DAVIS.

New York, December 5.

GUARD ON THE BORDER.

A Protest Against Misleading Reports About the Commissariat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I am in receipt of a letter from a notorious mother dated from New York City November 16, enclosing two clippings in the form of letters written by Harold Graham Northrup and H. Bol Greisen and published in THE SUN on November 14 and 16 respectively. From the anxious, hostile letter I quote:

I wish your kind letter to be true about these babies I am sending you. It is one of your boys who wrote the last letter. If you don't get enough to eat let me know at once and I will send you a box once a week until you come home. You will see from the second clipping that one of the young men of the First Battalion has corroborated the story. I had a good cry when I read these articles, as I know you certainly like plenty to eat, and to think we have more than we can dispose of while you must go hungry.

I have been a member of Company F, Twenty-second Corps of Engineers, National Guard, New York, for ten years. In that time I have learned that if we do not get a meal to satisfy a glutton it is for our own good, as overeating is as bad as any other thing when carried to excess, particularly in a climate such as Texas boasts.

But of course, this don't you think it rather caddish for a man to knock a thing he undertakes of his own free will, and to cause anguish to anxious mothers when their loved ones are far from home, especially in the border region, which holds untold horrors built up by the imagination of certain reporters and other writers of the New York Herald.

Harold Graham Northrup, as he calls himself, is afraid to sign his real name, as he is a member of an organization which boasts of men who are not quitters like he and his corroborating friend Corporal Greisen must be in order to write such trash. You boys were innocently fooled into publishing this.

After a most diligent search through the records of my company it was found that such a person as Northrup never was a member of it, for which we are thankful, as we boast of men, not chocolate soldiers whose sole idea of soldiering seems to be doing a full dress uniform and grading a dance floor to back in the light of a lady's admiration for the man in uniform.

At no time are our meals meagre or poor of quality. For instance, for dinner this noon we had boiled ham, potatoes and macaroni, besides an abundance of bread and butter and rice pudding that a first class hotel would serve at 15 cents a portion. The only time we are compelled to eat hardtack is while actually in the field, where we are too far from the bakery to have bread transported, also for the reason that a great deal of our baggage must be carried in a given space than bread.

Mr. Northrup is probably a member of our First Battalion, as is Corporal Greisen, in which unfortunately there are a great many in the class of the unweaned and tied to apron string class of young men.

The game of knocking the Guard is rather unfair in the face of what it has done while on the border. Listen to the satisfied fellow once in a while. I have found during my service that the satisfied man is never heard from. The kickers are very much in the minority.

ARMED W. DRAKE, First Class Sergeant, Company F, Second Battalion, Twenty-second New York Engineers.

McALEEN, Tex., November 30.

Sunday Movies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read with interest the letter from Mr. Fred King about Sunday movies.

I was raised a Puritan, but in recent years I have been in the habit of taking my children on Sunday to the movies. It is the only day I can go out with them, and they cannot go during the week on account of their lessons.

However, my wife and I after going to the moving picture theatre near our home and seeing some very objectionable films decided not to take the children again unless one of us went to find out first whether the pictures were clean and safe for our children to see. I am very sorry to say that just as often as not we have had to disappoint the children; nor are we alone in this, for I have heard parents in our neighborhood talk of similar experiences.

I would rather have a Sunday without movies than a Sunday with them unless they can be kept clean by a law which will be respected.

ARTHUR FISHER.

New York, December 5.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Since the outbreak of the war many new industries have sprung up in New South Wales, Australia. Leather goods, almost all of which were previously imported, are now made in domestic factories.

Sheet tin for making cans is needed in Spain.

Ceylon tea industry prospered in 1915, the exports amounting to 215,632 tons, valued at \$39,729,404.

There is a scarcity of lacquer supplies in China and Japan. The lacquer varnish tree has not been so much cut down as of late years because other crops have proved more profitable.

Japanese interests controlled most of the import trade of Tientsin, China, in 1915, and will be expected to exert great influence in the establishment of an American importing and exporting firm would improve trade relations.

Improvement of the roads in Haiti will increase the demand for American automobiles.

Dakar, the principal city of Senegal, French West Africa, has become an important coaling port for French, Italian and Norwegian ships. Imports of coal in 1915 amounted to 231,408 tons, of which the United States supplied about one-half.

The British Government has prohibited the importation of all articles containing gold, silver or platinum.

There is a market for the Canary Islands for an annual immigration. This trade is valued at \$20,000 yearly.

A steel foundry has been started at Santiago, Chile, which uses scrap iron as raw material. The Chilean steel is sold for 20 per cent less than that which is imported.

China's demand for Europe war goods has increased. Before the war most of the kitchenware was imported from Europe, but inquiries have been made recently about American china and enameled goods.

Condensed milk is needed in Spain. West African dealers are in the market for medicines, provisions, stationery and hardware.

Inquiries have been received from dealers in Sweden about American silk. The Department of Agriculture plans to build a plant near the Pacific coast for the production of potash. It will have a capacity of 200 tons of wet kelp daily. Greece's first shoe factory is to be opened at Athens. Before the war most of the machinery has been installed throughout the plant. Shovel, saw, and boiler tube cleaners are needed in Central America.

Sweeping Approval of a Modest Man.

From La Follette's Magazine.

Senator La Follette's reelection has been secured by the most progressive everywhere in the nation.

THE END OF THE STRAIN.

The man started home from his office.

As he departed the stenographer told him that shorthand paid had advanced 15 per cent.

An evening paper informed him that the city budget was \$211,115,016.

In the subway an interborough official advised him to help out the crush by riding on a local.

On the train a man told him that the national expenses had reached \$1,268,715,834.

At Fontainebleau street he heard a rumor that dodo cages, which he manufactured exclusively, would be on the embargo list.

At the head of the subway stairs, coming out, he was asked to contribute to the distressed of four more European peoples than he knew existed.

At the bookstand he met Met Billowitz, who assured him that prohibition was a matter of months.

At his own door his wife told him that the cook had gone to Connecticut to make munitions at \$6 a day.

His face drawn with anxiety, the man went directly to his bureau and, from the corner of a drawer, drew long, narrow box. He lifted the cover and looked in. Then he began to whistle.

He was going out to dinner and he had a freshly laundered tie.

A PATH TO TEMPERANCE.

No Treating, No Straight Drinks, and Only Three Watered Ones.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In your editorial article on "Alarm in the Liquor Trade" you quote Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular as saying: "Something is radically wrong and we are searching for the cause."

Send every saloon keeper and bartender to jail who permits treating, the most damnable habit in this country, and send them also to jail if they permit a customer to drink liquors straight. Every drink of liquor ought to be mixed with at least a pint of water or soft drink. Also, no more than three drinks of liquor ought to be sold to any one customer.

I am used to drinking beer since my boyhood, but if under present conditions it comes to a vote for or against prohibition I will vote for prohibition if it is only to protect my children.

GAMBRINUS.

BROOKLYN, December 5.

BALLOTS, BABIES, BREECHES.

Would the Antis Have Bath Law Wear a Crinoline in Flight?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: An admiring anti who makes the amazing admission that his brains are bemuddled satirically says of suffrage striplings: "It is ballots for both, as of course babies for both, and breeches for both."

Breeches, of course, the consumer. Would the admiring anti have had Miss Law wear a crinoline on her famous flight? Or is the anti opposed to aviation?

But how about babies? Why not for both? If not for both, for which? Shall we abolish fathers or mothers? Or is the anti opposed to babies?

By all means, ballots for both, and brains for both, and babies for both, and blessings on both, and A has the audacious anti whose jaundiced eye is offended by the colors of a daisy field in June?

NEW YORK, December 5.

THE ALL YEAR HOG.

One Military Expert Recommends the Elimination of the Sallet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: One way of disposing, temporarily at least, of the street car hog who crosses his legs in such a way that all who pass by must brush the dirt off the soles of his shoes is not to dodge the offending foot, but to rush resolutely and even roughly against it, forcing it out of your way.

You can beg the hog's pardon if you feel like it, and explain that you did not notice he was holding his foot out.

This method has worked well more than once, though less adapted to women than to men.

M. T. R.

New York, December 4.

Need of a Law to Punish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: All your readers should take note of your article on the "All Year Hog." It is a positive offense and should be punished by law. These hogs cross legs at every opportunity, in all vehicles, and in some cases ruin a woman's dress; and in all cases soil by mud or dirt mixed with oil and grease from the street.

MRS